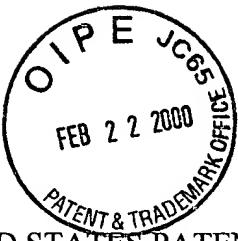


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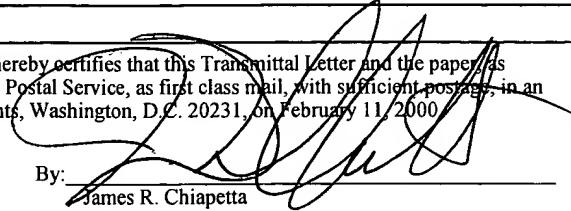


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |  |                 |            |
|-------------|--|-----------------|------------|
| Applicant:  | Blach et al.   | Examiner:       | G. Dawson  |
| Serial No.: | 09/264,464   | Group Art Unit: | 3731       |
| Filed:      | March 8, 1999  | Docket No.:     | 12460.1US1 |
| Title:      | NASAL SUPPORT DEVICE FOR DOMESTIC MAMMALS AND METHOD |                 |            |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the papers as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 11, 2000.

By:   
James R. Chiapetta

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, and before the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311. No fee is due as this statement is submitted as certified below under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) or (2) by the undersigned.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) or §1.97(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that this statement is submitted wherein no item of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, was

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known to any individual under §1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this statement (certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
3100 Norwest Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(612) 336-4712

James R. Chiapetta  
Reg. No. 39,634

DATE: 2/11/00